

# PREHISTORIC PALS

May 22 - Sept. 16, Tempe Public Library/Youth Library



Al Colegio from, *Poppy Learns Something Special/ Poppy Aprende Algo Especial*, written and illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal

## Juana Martinez-Neal, Scottsdale

Martinez-Neal was born in Lima, the capital of Peru. She got started in illustration at the age of 16. She attended Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru- School of Fine Arts, in Lima. After three years of working a crazy 12 hour-a-day schedule and way too many all-nighters, Martinez-Neal was in desperate need of a break and decided to give Los Angeles a “test drive.” She has lived in the United States ever since. She now lives in Scottsdale with her husband and three children.

Martinez-Neal says of her work in this exhibition, “*These pieces are part of the Poppy Series books. The Poppy picture books were written in Spanish and English as part of a back-to-school campaign promoted by Nestlé Latino. In Poppy’s Best Day Ever, Poppy wakes up on the day of her birthday to have a day filled with excitement and joy, but the biggest surprise comes at the end of the day when her baby brother is born. In Poppy Learns Something Special, Poppy goes to school for the first time ever... and she loves it! All the pieces were painted traditionally using mixed media techniques.*”

[www.juanamartinezneal.com](http://www.juanamartinezneal.com)

## Molly Idle, Tempe

After graduating from Arizona State University, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in drawing, Idle accepted an offer to work for DreamWorks Feature Animation Studios. After five years, a number of film credits, and an incredibly good time, she left the studio to leap into the world of children’s literature. Idle now lives and works, with her fabulous family, here in Tempe. When not making mischief with her boys or watching old Technicolor musicals, she can be found at her desk scribbling away- creating a plethora of profoundly whimsical picture books like *Tea Rex*, *Camp Rex* and *Flora and the Flamingo* - which was awarded a Caldecott Honor.

Of her work in this exhibition, Idle says “*Tea Rex and Camp Rex are the first two books in a trilogy of tales featuring Rex, Cordelia, her little brother George and his bear Ted. The words in these books are read as straightforward how-to-guides. The pictures in these books, however, read more like how-NOT-to-guides. The wackiness that ensues from this mismatched mashup is my homage to the Goofy animated shorts, created by the Walt Disney Studios during the 1940s, 50s and 60s. When I sit down with my colored pencils to create the illustrations for these books, I set out to capture in my own artwork the feeling of sublime silliness inherent in those classic cartoons.*”

[www.idleillustration.com](http://www.idleillustration.com)



Tea Rex from , *Tea Rex*, written and illustrated by Molly Idle



Tempe Galleries

A satellite program with the Gallery at Tempe Center for the Arts  
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